

of the animal presents to the eye a mixture of silver-grey and black, in which the former colour predominates, whereas in *Lepus kabylicus* the mixture is one of cinnamon and black, the black predominating.

The type was presented by Dr. Drewitt to the Cambridge Museum, the authorities of which have been good enough to cede it in exchange to the British Museum, where it is now no. 98. 10. 14. 1.

LIII.—*Note on the European Dormice of the Genera Muscardinus and Glis.* By G. E. H. BARRETT HAMILTON.

THE British Museum of Natural History has recently received a small collection of North-Italian mammals, purchased from Cav. Sigismundo Brogi, of Siena, and presented to the Museum by Dr. Edward Hamilton.

The dormice of the genera *Glis* and *Muscardinus* included in this collection are of very great interest and represent two very distinct and hitherto unnoticed species, for permission to describe which I am indebted to the kindness of the Museum authorities.

The following is a description of the two new species. The first, a *Muscardinus*, is a most beautifully coloured little animal. I propose to call it

Muscardinus pulcher, sp. n.

The general coloration is rich chestnut, but the species is larger and finer than the average *M. avellanarius* of France or England, all the colours being far more vivid than in the latter species, and the tail more bushy. The colour of the upper surface of the body and of the anal region is rich chestnut, the colour being deepest and richest on the back and tail and paler on the flanks. The underside is white, stained with cream-colour, purer on the breast and upper neck, and there is a sharp line of demarcation between the colours of the upper and under sides. This line of demarcation passes along the cheeks just above the upper lip to just below each eye, where the cream-colour is interrupted on each side by a weak band of chestnut passing from under each eye to the inner surface of the fore legs, and cutting off a patch of the cream-colour just in front of each ear. On the remainder of

the body the line of demarcation runs along the flanks and legs, leaving the internal sides of the fore legs cream-coloured and their external sides chestnut. The tail is uniformly bright chestnut above and below.

In *M. avellanarius* there is no distinct line of demarcation, but the tawny yellow of the upperside shades into dirty yellowish on the flanks and yellowish white on the belly, being, as in *M. pulcher*, purer on the breast. The cream-coloured spot before each ear is also absent.

The following are the dimensions of the type, together with those of three French specimens for comparison:—

	<i>M. pulcher.</i>	<i>M. avellanarius.</i>		
	♂.	♂.	♀.	
	Siena, Italy (Mar. 3, '98). S. Brogi.	Forest of Guines, Pas de Calais, France (May 6, '94). O. Thomas.	Forest of Guines, Pas de Calais, France (May 20, '94). M. Lomont.	Manon- ville, France (Oct 18, '95). M. Lomont.
	mm.	mm.	mm.	mm.
Head and body.	90	72	77	70
Tail	68	71	74	68
Hind foot	16	16.2	16.4	15
Ear	12	10

The type is a male, number 98. 10. 2. 17 of the British Museum collection; it was purchased from Cav. Sigismundo Brogi, who obtained it at Siena, in Italy, on March 3rd, 1898.

The second new species is a *Glis*, and although not so remarkable for its beauty as the *Muscardinus*, it is equally so for its novelty, it being at once recognizable as distinct from the ordinary *Glis glis* of Europe, from which species it differs in that the tail is black and more bushy and the colour of the upperside darker. In fact, the brown coloration of *Glis glis* is in the new species everywhere replaced by a nearly black colour. The following is a description of this new species:—

Glis italicus, sp. n.

The general appearance is somewhat similar to that of *Glis glis*, but the size is larger and the colour of the upper surface is very much darker, especially on the median dorsal line in some specimens. The tail is more bushy and squirrel-like, and its colour, especially near the tip, is black or dark

brown and not uniform in coloration as in the latter species. Similarly, the dark markings of the fore parts of the feet and legs are black instead of brown, and contrast very sharply with the white colour of the rest of the limbs. These peculiarities are equally observable in animals of all ages. The coloration of the underside is very similar to that of *Glis glis*, but appears to be in most specimens decidedly richer, being washed with rust red, which colour attains its greatest intensity on the chest, neck, and inside of the fore legs.

Altogether *Glis italicus* is a larger, more robust, and more handsomely coloured animal than *Glis glis*. Its greater size is well shown in its skull, which is far larger and more strongly made than that of the latter animal. The total length of the skull of *Glis italicus* is from 42 to 45 millim., as against a corresponding measurement of 37 to 38 millim. for *Glis glis*.

The first specimens of this animal received at the British Museum were a male and two females presented by the Marquis G. Doria, and came from Begato, near Genoa; there is also a specimen collected by Mr. A. H. Savage Landor near Florence, and another collected by D. Graeffe at Trefail, on the borders of Krain and Steiermark, Austria, and presented by the late Lord Lilford. Of *Glis glis* the Museum possesses specimens from France, Central Germany, Bavaria, and Switzerland.

The following are the dimensions of a series of specimens:—

Glis italicus.

	Head and body. mm.	Tail. mm.	Hind foot*. mm.	Ear. mm.	Total length of skull. mm.
♂. Siena. B.M. 98. 10. 2. 11. July 4, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>)	190	152	32	24	..
♀ (juv.). Florence. B.M. 97. 3. 7. 2. Feb. 19, 1897. (<i>Savage Lan-</i> <i>dor</i> .)	181	140	30	14†	41
—. Siena. Coll. G. E. H. B.-H. 388. Sept. 9, 1897. (<i>Brogi</i>)	170	152	32	23	..
—. Siena. Coll. G. E. H. B.-H. 389. Sept. 12, 1897. (<i>Brogi</i>)	152	140	28	21	..

* I make the dimensions of the hind feet and ears of three Genoa specimens, which are in spirit (B.M. coll. nos. 89. 12. 11. 1 to 3), a little smaller than the dimensions recorded above on the labels of the skins, viz. hind foot 27–28 mm., ear 17–18 mm.

† Possibly a mistake for 24, but the ear of the dried skin measures only 16 mm.

		Head and body. mm.	Tail. mm.	Hind foot. mm.	Ear. mm.	Total length of skull. mm.
♀.	Siena. B.M. 98. 10. 2. 12. Aug. 19, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>) ..	187	130	28	23	44
♀.	Siena. B.M. 98. 10. 2. 13. Aug. 23, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>) ..	160	151	28	21	..
♀.	B.M. 98. 10. 2. 14. Aug. 25, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>)	180	153	32	23	4
♀.	Siena. B.M. 98. 10. 2. 15. Aug. 26, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>) ..	174	160	37*	20	42
♀ (juv.).	Siena. B.M. 98. 10. 2. 16. Sept. 1, 1898. (<i>Brogi</i>)	124	110	33	20	..

Glis glis.

♀.	Germany. July 27, 1895. (<i>R. Schuchardt</i>)	170	130	30
♀.	Germany. Aug. 18, 1898. (<i>R. Schuchardt</i>)	140	120	20.5
♀.	Ekenkrug, near Magdeburg, Germany. July 27, 1895. (<i>Dr. Wolterstorff</i>)	156	137	30	..	33

The type (Brit. Mus. coll. no. 98. 10. 2. 14) is a female and one of Cav. Brogi's Siena specimens.

While working at the above species I found it necessary to consider what interpretation should be placed on Rafinesque's descriptions of two small mammals from Sicily, which he named † *Musculus frugivorus* and *Musculus dichrurus*. The former is too large to be a mouse, having a length of 15 inches; its cylindrical tail and Rafinesque's remark that it is "un vrai rat" seem to stamp it as almost certainly some form of *Mus alexandrinus*.

The description of *Musculus dichrurus*, however, does not quite fit any known mammal of Sicily, nor can I follow Lesson ‡, who evidently had in his mind a dormouse of some kind when he renamed it as *Myoxus siculae*. If, however, we ignore Rafinesque's remark, "il tombe en léthargie durant l'hiver," on which point he may have been wrongly informed, we may without greatly stretching our imagination identify *Musculus dichrurus* with *Mus sylvaticus*.

* Probably a mistake for 27 mm., which is more nearly the measurement of the foot in the dried skin.

† 'Précis des découvertes et travaux Somnologiques,' 1814, p. 13.

‡ 'Manuel de Mammalogie, ou Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères,' 1827, p. 274.